

T H E C A S E O F T H E F A N N - M A K E R S ;

Who have Petitioned the Honorable House of Commons, against the Importation of Fanns from the East-Indies.

TH E Petitioners are several Tradesmen, and Artificers, who are concerned in the Manufacture of Fanns, in which great Numbers of Men, Women and Children, used to be constantly Employed, some in making the Sticks, Papers, Leathers, and in Ordering and Stiffning of the Silks, others in Painting, Varnishing, and Japanning, and in preparing other Materials wherewith Fanns are made, by which there used to be Yearly consumed great Quantities of Silk, Paper, Leather, Wyer, and several Tunns of Whale-bone, Tortoise-shell, Ivory, Box, Ebony, and other sorts of Wood, which were Imported from *Turky, Russia,* and other Foreign Parts, to the Increase of His Majesty's Customs, and to the great Benefit and Advantage of our Woollen Manufacture, for which such Foreign Goods were bought in Exchange; so that by the making of Fanns here at home, not only the Woollen Manufacture, and the King's Customs are greatly advanced, but abundance of Poor People are continually kept at Work. All which Advantages to the Common-wealth are now likely to be destroy'd, by the Importation of vast Quantities of Fanns from the *East-Indies*, from whence there have been lately brought over above a 130000, tho' scarce half that Quantity hath been Entred in the *Custom-house*, the rest having been Fraudulently conveyed on Shoar by the Seamen and others, without paying any Duty; and as for the Duty which is paid, 'tis but inconsiderable, in comparison of the Duty which arises from the Commodities Imported from *Turky, Russia,* and other Foreign Parts, which are consumed here about the Fanns; and besides formerly great Quantities of our own Fanns have been Exported, for which a considerable Duty used to be paid to the King; so that 'tis hoped that this Honourable House will think fit to Prohibit the Importation of *Indian* Fanns, and Fan-sticks, as well as Silks and Callicoes; for that thereby, not only the Woollen Manufacture, and His Majesty's Customs are considerably Lessen'd and Impair'd; but also Multitudes of Poor Artificers and their Families will be reduced to a Deplorable Condition. And many of them for want of Work are already become a Burthen to the several Parishes where they Inhabit.